

D-R-A-F-T

Mr. Harold Weisberg
Route 8
Frederick, Maryland 21701

Dear Mr. Weisberg:

This is in reply to your letter of November 23, 1974.

An examination of Dr. John K. Lattimer's article, "The Kennedy-Connally One Bullet Theory," in the November issue of Medical Times revealed that Dr. Lattimer stated that President Kennedy's shirt among the Warren Commission exhibits "was in 'new' condition, and of strong fabric, with a strongly sewn-on collar button. This has been tested on the President's original shirt by one of us." No laboratory tests on the shirt were made by Dr. Lattimer. We assume that he meant that he tested the fabric and collar button of the shirt by feeling them with his fingers. As you may recall, you were permitted to hold and examine Lee Harvey Oswald's shirt.

Dr. Lattimer's qualifications to examine the material relating to the autopsy of President Kennedy were determined by Mr. Burke Marshall, the representative of the Kennedy family for that purpose.

Sincerely,

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

November 15, 1968

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Correspondence with Harold Weisberg, Coq d'Or Press, Route 8,
Frederick, Maryland 21701

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The transcript of the executive session of January 27, 1964, of the Warren Commission requested by Mr. Harold Weisberg in the attached letter was reviewed by GSA, the CIA, and the Department of Justice. Mr. Martin Richman of the Office of Legal Counsel of the Department recommended that the entire transcript be withheld from research, and we have withheld it.

As Mr. Weisberg says, there are certain quotations, presumably taken from a copy of the transcript in Congressman Ford's possession, that are published in Portrait of the Assassin (New York: Simon and Schuster, 1965) by Gerald R. Ford and John R. Stiles (pages 19-25). Some material is deleted from the quotations without any indication of the deletions, and there are other variances from the text of the transcript. The quoted material does not consist of a continuous passage, but of various passages chosen from different pages. Only one complete page (page 158) of the transcript is included in the quoted material. We feel that to tell Mr. Weisberg this, or to supply him with a copy of the page that has been completely published, would encourage him to increase his demands for additional material from the transcript and from other withheld records.

JAMES B. RHOADS
Archivist of the United States

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